(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith Government's view point in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Floods are natural phenomena for which there cannot be a permanent solution. Inspite of the best efforts to mitigate the impacts of floods, heavy losses of lives and property are reported during floods every year from different parts of the country including Bihar; varying in magnitude.

(b) and (c) The Central Government has envisaged to make a comprehensive assessment of the feasibility of linking the rivers in the country starting with the southern rivers in a fully consultative manner. It would also explore the feasibility of linking sub-basins of rivers within the States, like Bihar.

Six Intra-state link proposals have been identified by the State Government of Bihar, namely (i) Kohra-Chandravat, (ii) Burhi-Gandak-None-Baya-Ganga, (iii) Bagmati-Burhi-Gandak through Belwabhar, (iv) Kosi-Ganga, (v) Kosi-Mechi (Indian portion) and (vi) Karmanasha Suara links in Bihar. The State Government of Bihar has commenced the work of preparation of Detailed Project Report of these Inter-State links.

Development of water storage in the country

†851. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of efforts being made by Government for water storage, water harvesting and water management;

(b) whether it is a fact that a number of ponds/reservoirs in NCT of Delhi and its adjoining areas have become dry due to negligence of Government;

(c) if so, whether keeping in view the scarcity of water, particularly in summer season, Government is considering to issue directions to all the State Governments to set-up task forces to repair/renovate river, drains, ponds and wells etc., and

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) With a view to optimally utilize the available resources, several measures for development and management of water resources are undertaken by the respective State Governments which include creation of storages, restoration of water bodies, rain water harvesting, artificial recharge to ground water and adoption of better management practice etc. Storage capacity of about 225 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM) has been created so far. As per present assessment, the total estimated storage capacity of the various projects under construction is about 64 BCM. Further, the State Governments have identified various other schemes for investigation and planning and the estimated storage for such schemes is about 108 BCM. The Ministry of Water Resources encourages conservation of water including measures such as traditional water conservation practices, rainwater harvesting and recharge to ground water and adoption of better management practices. Government of India has launched a Pilot Scheme on "National Project for Repair, Renovation & Restoration of Water Bodies directly linked to Agriculture" in January, 2005 with an estimated cost of Rs. 300 crore with a view to restore and augment storage capacity of water bodies and also to recover their lost irrigation potential. The scheme has been approved for 26 district projects in 15 States, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Gujarat, Kerala and Maharashtra at an estimated cost of Rs. 299.92 crore. Central Share to tune of Rs. 179.73 crore has been released to the States so far. These projects cover 1098 water bodies with total original culturable command area of 1.72 lakh hectares. No ponds/reservoirs in the NCT of Delhi are covered under the Pilot Scheme.

River inter-linking Scheme

852. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the actual status of ambitious 'river inter-linking' scheme in the country particularly, Chambal-Kali sindh-Parvati Project;

(b) whether this scheme is lagging behind the target;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action taken by Government to accelerate the above scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) The National Water Development Agency (NWDA) has prepared Feasibility Report of 16 links out of 30 identified links under the National Perspective Plan (NPP) for Water Resources Development for transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficit basins/areas.

A Group headed by Chairman, Central Water Commission (CWC) consisting of other officers of CWC, NWDA and Secretaries of Irrigation/Water Resources Department from concerned States has been constituted in June, 2002 to discuss with the States the issues for arriving at a consensus regarding sharing of surplus water and preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs). Five peninsular links have been identified as priority links for consensus building between the concerned States. The Group has held nine meetings on these links. The DPR for one priority link *viz.* Ken-Betwa has been taken up by NWDA after signing of a tripartite agreement between the Government of India and concerned States of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh on 25.08.2005. The States of MP and Rajasthan have also agreed in principle for the preparation of DPR of another priority link *viz.* Parbati-Kalisindhi-Chambal link.

The implementation of inter basin water transfer proposals depends on the consensus and cooperation of the concerned States.

Accelerated Irrigation Project in Rajasthan

853. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of grants given to Rajasthan for irrigation projects under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme, project-wise and the achievement thereto, project-wise;

(b) whether some requests from State Government are pending with Centre; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard and the action taken for the speedy disposal of such projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) So far, 10 irrigation projects of Rajasthan have received Central Assistance under AIBP amounting to Rs. 1695.4532 crore as Loan and Grants. The